

ABSTRACT

In an embodiment, a communication system may include a system host that transmits messages to a number of client devices, which may be dynamically grouped. The system host may link the client identifier of a client in a group to a group identifier and an expiration indicator in a client-group database. The membership information in the database may be updated as groups are added, deleted, or modified, or as client memberships expire. The system host may compile a general membership file from information in the client-group database and transmit it at scheduled intervals. Client devices may update their membership files with the transmitted file and by deleting expired membership records. The system host may transmit messages that include a group identifier in a header. A client device may inspect the header and discard the message if the transmitted group identifier is not found in that client device's internal membership file.